

In re Patent Application of:

CALDWELL

Serial No. **09/828,293**

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respective indexing element 50 is sized so as to locate the top surface 48 of the lip portion 43 of the male mold element 40 a prescribed vertical offset 52 from the top surface 13 of the female mold element. This prescribed vertical offset is preestablished to place the male mold element 40 into the female mold element 10 at the requisite depth that precisely defines the geometry parameters of the mold cavity 42. Once inserted, the male mold element 40 may be retained in its intended mold cavity-forming position by means of clamps and the like at the various indexing elements 50.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In contrast thereto, in a conventional mold, shown in the partial side view of Figure 11, it is not uncommon for fibers of the structural preform 20 to extend onto the top edge surface 13 of the female mold element 10. When the inner male mold 40 is clamped down onto the female mold 10, these fibers become compressed or squeezed into a tightly bunched matting 110 between a lip 112 of the inner male mold 40 and the top edge surface 13 of the female mold element 10. As a consequence, the molded part can have excess flange material 110 extending between the lip 112 of the inner male mold 40 and the top edge surface 13 of the female mold element 10, causing the molded part to become effectively 'locked' to the outer, female mold 10. This impairs removal of the molded part, when the inner male mold element 40 is removed.